PROJECT METROPOLIS

USMC Stability And Security Operations (SASO) in the Urban Environment

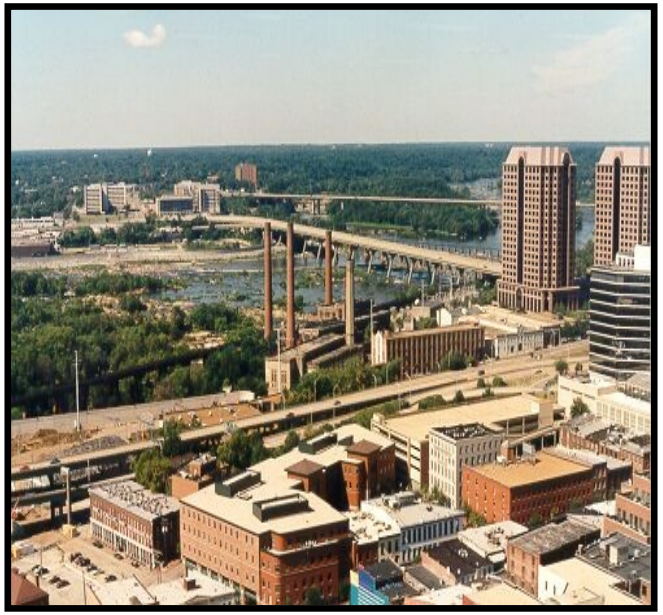
Project Metropolis

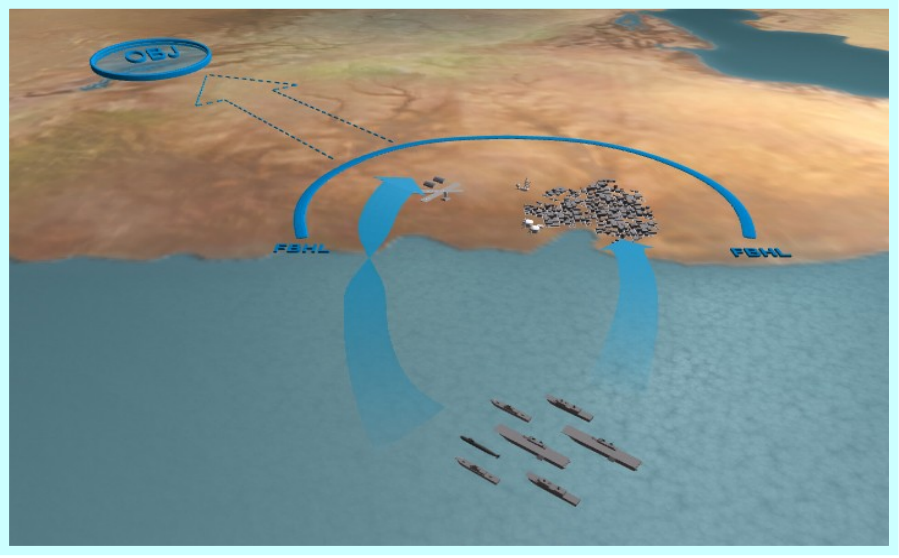
Agenda:

- Background to ProMet Experimentation
- General Considerations
- Stability And Security Operations (SASO)
- Major Lessons Learned

Why Urban?

- 8-10 billion people by 2025
- 55-70% living in urban areas
- STOM will still require entry of MAGTF elms via urban centers
- MOUT is unique-can’t be covered by existing TTPs and facilities





Three Block War – Alive and Well

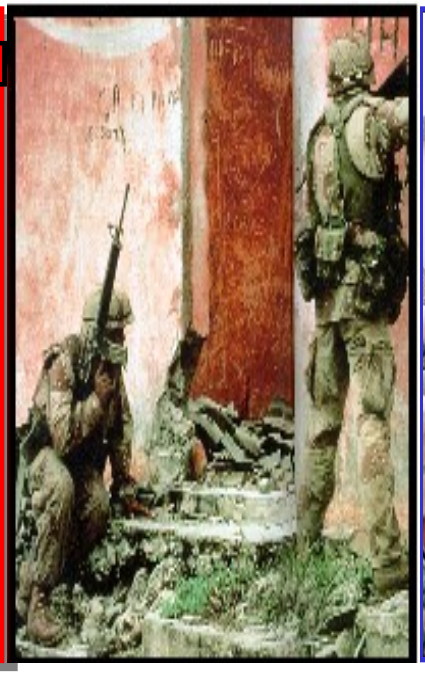
Block III

Block II

Block I

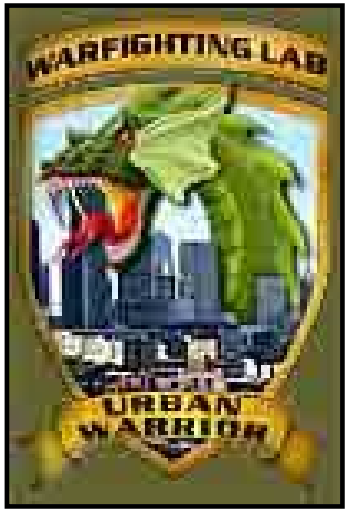
USMC Commitments 1980-2003

- 68 Occasions, Marines deployed for support
- 32 Occasions, Rural Environment
- 58 Occasions, Urban Environment



Formation of PROMET

- Urban Warrior (97/99) – Heavy emphasis on concepts and technology
- Project Metropolis (99-)- emphasis on individual and collective TTPs
- Revised/developed instructional materials
- Began TTP development at platoon combined arms level
- Started with high intensity moved to low (SASO)



General Considerations

- Challenges posed by urban battlespace.
  - Compartmentalization
  - Canalization
  - Proximity of civilian population
  - Limited effectiveness of fires
  - Limited effectiveness ground recon assets
  - 3-D battle space
  - Time/Space factors
  - Rapidly changing threat

Aim

- Transition of Operations in Iraq from High Intensity to SASO
- SASO Method of Operation
  - Campaign Plan
  - Dominate the TAOR
  - Civil Military Affairs
  - Intelligence
  - Reaction Force

Campaign Plan

- Campaign Plan
  - Deployed for the long haul
  - Operational Tempo Vs maintenance of morale
  - Based significant milestones (political and military throughout deployment)
  - Progressive hand over of battle / AO
    - Period of vulnerability
    - Threat exploitation
    - Full grasp of intelligence picture

Dominate the TAOR

- “Peace Keeping/Peace Enforcement Ops” “Stability Ops” = dominate a piece of urban terrain after the big fight.
- Initial Entry sets the tone
- Decentralized version of Nodal Defense
- Establishment of a series of integrated Company/Platoon firm bases

Civil Military Affairs (CMA)

- Dedicated Civil Military Affairs
  - Not sexy, but mandatory
  - Media
  - Must be senior officer, sole POC for all CMA, NGOs
  - Alleviates shooters from CMA
  - Constant link to local hierarchy
  - Theme
    - Security of this TAOR is a joint effort, not ours alone

Intelligence

- SASO is intelligence intensive
- Intelligence Data Base
  - Hand over of current Intel Data
  - Patrol / AARs
  - All sources Cell
  - Local Limited Intel Analysis at Company Level
- Administration
  - Local labor alleviates Marines conducting mundane duties
    - Intelligence vetting
    - Escorted at all times

Reaction Force

- Maintain range of *Response* Options
  - At various levels
    - Battalion
    - Company
    - Platoon
  - Varying compositions

Planning Considerations

- Fire Support
- Human Intel
- Prisoner Handling
- Sleep Plan
- Communications
- Night Ops
- Law Enforcement issues
- ROE
  - Advantageous, liberal, common sense
    - ‘hostile act or hostile intent’
  - Removal of emotion
  - Got to prepare the boys ahead of time
  - Command interpretation
  - Challenge comes after 1st friendly casualty

Major Lessons Learned

- All forces regardless of MOS must have MOUT training- including leadership
- Maneuver warfare viable
- Combined arms teams down to squad level

Major Lessons Learned

- Units that execute the fundamentals are more successful
- Combat Support Teams are force multiplier
- Bounding and overwatch
- Must maintain spherical security at all times
- “Go firm”
- Degradation of individual skills

Major Lessons Learned

- Non-linear battlespace – no safe rear area
- High ground enhances situational awareness, observation, C2, and firing points
- Requirement for increased staff augmentation at point of contact – Squad & Platoon
- Rapid transition from Block I to Block III –

Operation Iraqi Freedom

- Confirmation of BUST Package
  - 3rd Bn / 7th Marines
- MAGTF concept sound
- Requirement to include CSS in BUST
- Offensive Maneuver in MOUT
- Command and Control in MOUT (situation awareness) remains illusive
- Fundamentals sound, readily adaptable

Feedback

- "…during UCAX, [we] felt that,…the breadth of 'unusual' events and frequency…was not representative of 'reality' in combat. **During OIF, literally every single UCAX scenario was repeated at a similar rate and frequency.** The advantage that the Battalion gained from having had to think through these situations in training cannot be overstated."—3rd Battalion 7th Marines AAR from OIF.

Summary

- Long term plan
- Initial entry sets the tone
- Firm, apolitical stance
- CMA is vital
- Intelligence intensive
- Information led ops with a range of responses
- End state and exit strategy